



Rev. Sheila Sholes-Ross

The First Baptist Church

88 South Street
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201
Phone: 413-445-4539



December 13, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

RE: MB Docket No 05-311 In the Matter of Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

As pastor of First Baptist Church of Pittsfield, I am writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") and the Pittsfield Community Cable Broadcasting Corporation ("Pittsfield Community Television") in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making. As a Church using the services, we oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in the proceeding because of the impact on our community.

First Baptist Church (FBC) of Pittsfield has an aging congregation, who for many years were active church participants, but due to health issues are unable to attend worship services. The ability to view the worship enables them to maintain a spiritual connection to the faith community. And with that, many people who are not affiliated with FBC find interest and comfort in FBC's televised worship services. We have been told FBC is making a critical impact on many people.

This benefit for people of faith was what was intended when Congress set up the Cable Act. PEG Access does not solely benefit a local government or franchising authority: It benefits and strengthens the community as a whole. By allowing cable operators to reduce franchise fee support for local communities if they opt for local channels, the FNPRM diminishes the ability of PEG channels to serve communities such as ours. We ask that it not be adopted.

Thank you.

The Reverend Sheila Sholes-Ross
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Pittsfield

*The First Baptist Church of Pittsfield, Massachusetts is a member of
The American Baptist Churches, USA, The Alliance of Baptists
and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists*